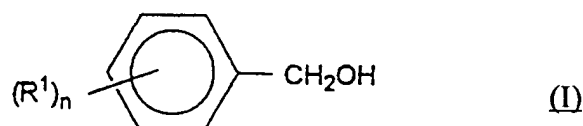


**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1** (currently amended) ~~Process~~ A process for the preparation of an  $\omega$ -benzyl ester of an amino dicarboxylic acid, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising reacting the amino dicarboxylic acid ~~is reacted~~ with a benzyl alcohol derivative of the formula (I)



~~in which wherein~~ the  $R^1(s)$  ~~substituent or substituents, which are identical or different,~~  
~~represent a~~ are individually selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atom, a  $C_1$  to  
 $C_4$  alkyl ~~group, a  $C_1$  to  $C_4$  alkoxy group or a~~ and halogen atom and  $n$  is equal to 1, 2 or 3,  
in the presence of at least one mol per mole of the amino dicarboxylic acid of an  
~~alkanesulphonic~~ alkanesulfonic acid, optionally in the presence of a solvent.

**Claim 2** (currently amended) ~~Process according to~~ The process of Claim 1, ~~characterized~~  
~~in that wherein~~ the amino ~~diacid~~ dicarboxylic acid is an  $\alpha$ -amino carboxylic acid carrying  
another carboxyl group attached to a carbon other than that in the  $\alpha$  position.

**Claim 3** (currently amended) ~~Process according to~~ The process of Claim 2, ~~characterized~~  
~~in that wherein~~ the amino ~~diacid~~ dicarboxylic acid is glutamic acid or aspartic acid.

**Claim 4** (currently amended) ~~Process according to any one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ The process of claim 1 wherein the alcohol of formula (I) is benzyl  
alcohol.

**Claim 5** (currently amended) ~~Process according to any one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ The process of claim 1 wherein the temperature of the reaction is  
less than or equal to 80°C.

**Claim 6** (currently amended) ~~Process according to any one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ The process of claim 1 wherein the benzyl alcohol or its derivative  
of formula (I) is used in an amount ~~chosen within the range from~~ of 1.2 to 3 mol per mole  
of the amino ~~diacid~~ dicarboxylic acid.

**Claim 7** (currently amended) ~~Process according to any one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ The process of claim 1 wherein the ~~alkanesulphonie~~ alkanesulfonic  
acid is ~~methanesulphonie~~ methanesulfonic acid.

**Claim 8** (currently amended) ~~Process according to any one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ The process of claim 1 wherein the amount of ~~alkanesulphonie~~  
alkanesulfonic acid used is ~~chosen within the range from~~ 1.01 to 2 mol per mole of the  
amino ~~diacid~~ dicarboxylic acid.

**Claim 9** (currently amended) ~~Process according to any one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ The process of claim 1 wherein the solvent of the reaction is ~~chosen~~  
~~selected from the group consisting of~~ aliphatic ~~or~~ and aromatic and halogenated ~~or~~ and  
nonhalogenated hydrocarbons.

**Claim 10** (currently amended) ~~Process according to one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ The process of claim 1 wherein the  $\omega$ -benzyl ester of the amino  
~~diacid~~ dicarboxylic acid is obtained in the free form by bringing the ~~alkanesulphonate~~  
alkanesulfonate of the  $\omega$ -benzyl ester of the amino ~~diacid~~ dicarboxylic acid into  
contact with an organic or inorganic base.

**Claim 11** (currently amended) ~~Process according to~~ The process of Claim 10,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the base is used in an amount sufficient to reach the  
isoelectric point of the ester to be obtained.

**Claim 12** (currently amended) ~~Process according to Claim 10 or 11, characterized in that~~  
The process of Claim 10 wherein the base is an aqueous ammonia solution.

**Claim 13** (currently amended) ~~Process according to one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterized in that the alkanesulphonate~~ The process of claim 1 wherein the  
alkanesulfonate of the  $\omega$ -benzyl ester of the amino ~~diacid~~ dicarboxylic acid is crystallized  
before being converted to the free  $\omega$ -benzyl ester of the amino ~~diacid~~ dicarboxylic acid.

**Claim 14** (currently amended) ~~Process according to any one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ The process of claim 1 wherein the solvent/water azeotrope is  
distilled off at a temperature of less than 80°C.

**Claim 15** (currently amended) ~~Process according to any one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterized in that the alkanesulphonate~~ The process of claim 1 wherein the  
alkanesulfonate of the  $\omega$ -benzyl ester of the amino ~~diacid~~ dicarboxylic acid is isolated  
before being brought into contact with the base.

**Claim 16** (currently amended) ~~Process according to any one of Claims 1 to 14,~~  
~~characterized in that the alkanesulphonate~~ The process of claim 1 wherein the  
alkanesulfonate of the  $\omega$ -benzyl ester of the amino ~~diacid~~ dicarboxylic acid is not isolated  
from the medium before this ester is released.

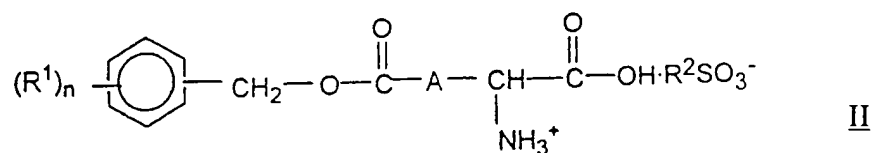
**Claim 17** (currently amended) ~~Process according to any one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterized in that the alkanesulphonate~~ The process of claim 1 wherein the  
alkanesulfonate of the  $\omega$ -benzyl ester to be converted to the free ester is dissolved ~~with~~ in  
water.

**Claim 18** (currently amended) ~~Process according to any one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ The process of claim 1 wherein a solvent for the benzyl alcohol  
derivative is added to the medium comprising the ester to be released.

**Claim 19** (currently amended) ~~Process according to any one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ The process of claim 1 wherein, after having reached the pH of the  
 isoelectric point, the medium is heated.

**Claim 20** (currently amended) ~~Alkanesulphonate~~ Alkanesulfonate of  $\omega$ -benzyl ester of  
an amino dicarboxylic acid.

**Claim 21** (currently amended) ~~Alkanesulphonate according to~~ Alkanesulfonate of Claim  
 20, ~~characterized in that it is represented by~~ having the following formula (II):



~~in which wherein~~ the  $R^1$  ~~(s)~~ substituent or substituents, which are identical or different,  
 represent a individually selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atom, a  $C_1$  to  $C_4$   
 alkyl group, a  $C_1$  to  $C_4$  alkoxy group or a and halogen atom and  $n$  is equal to 1, 2 or 3, A  
 is the part of the molecule of an  $\alpha$ -amino carboxylic acid attached to the carbon in the  $\alpha$   
 position and to the carboxyl group in the  $\omega$  position, and  $R^2$  ~~represents the~~ is alkane  
 residue of the ~~alkanesulphonic~~ alkanesulfonic acid.

**Claim 22** (currently amended) ~~Alkanesulphonate according to the preceding claim,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ An alkanesulfonate of claim 21 wherein it is  $\gamma$ -benzyl glutamate  
~~methanesulphonate~~ methanesulfonate or  $\beta$ -benzyl aspartate methane-sulphonate sulfonate.